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# Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States.

## BY-LAWS

ADOPTED, FEBRUARY 1, 1888,

WITH AMENDMENTS TO DECEMBER 5, 1894, INCLUSIVE,

For the Government of the Commandery of the State of  
New York.

### (I.) MEETINGS.

I.—The stated meetings of the Commandery shall be held on the first Wednesday of the months of May, October, December, <sup>March</sup> February, ~~and April~~, at the hour of 6:30 o'clock P. M., at Delmonico's, corner of Fifth Avenue and Twenty-sixth Street, until otherwise ordered.

The stated meetings shall close promptly at 7:30 o'clock P. M., except that for the election of officers, which shall close at 8 P. M., unless prolonged to a later designated hour by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

### BANQUET.

II.—The customary refection shall be served upon the adjournment of the stated meetings of the Commandery. The Commander shall preside at the same, or in his absence either of the Vice-Commanders in the order of his seniority, or in their absence a temporary chairman. The preparation and conduct thereof shall be committed to the Recorder and Treasurer, subject to such rules or regulations as may from time to time be made by the Board of Officers. Guests may be admitted thereto under regulations of the Board of Officers, which shall be published successively in the circular orders.

### (2 ) COMMITTEES.

"All committees and officers not otherwise provided for shall be appointed by the Commander." The first-named member of a committee shall act as the chairman thereof.

E-462  
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### (3) APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

Applications for membership shall be presented to the Commandery at a stated meeting by announcement of the Recorder, and not otherwise, and none shall be received unless accompanied with the admission fee and the dues of the current year, and assurance that the prerequisites of the Constitution have been complied with.

The names of the applicants for membership, a brief detail of their military history, a statement of their present occupation and address, the names of their recommenders and of the Committee of Investigation, shall be contained in the circular order published by the Recorder for the stated meeting at which such applications are to be reported by the Committee of Investigation, for the action of the Commandery.

### (4.) COMMITTEES OF INVESTIGATION.

The Commander, at his discretion, may appoint more than one Committee of Investigation, apportioning to each committee, as near as may be, an aliquot part of the whole number of applications, and of such number, respectively, as in his judgment will secure a strict investigation.

Private communications by any Companion to any member of a Committee of Investigation touching the worthiness or eligibility of any applicant whose application for membership is referred to such committee, or any private or personal knowledge thereof communicated by any member of the committee, shall in all instances be observed by them as strictly confidential as to the source thereof. Such communications, when written, shall be returned by the chairman of the committee to the writer thereof immediately after the final action of the Commandery.

Any disclosure made of the author of such communication, or information given that may lead to such disclosure, shall be deemed "conduct unbecoming a gentlemen and inconsistent with that of a man of honor," and subject the offender to impeachment and expulsion.

### (5.) CIRCULAR ORDERS.

Circular orders giving date and place of the stated meetings of the Commandery shall be issued by the Recorder and posted at the New York City Post Office at least fifteen days in advance of every such meeting to each member of the Commandery. Such orders may contain whatever information other than hereinbefore prescribed that the Recorder or Board of Officers shall think useful or expedient. Posting by the Recorder, in the New York City Post Office, to the members of the Commandery, notice of any special meeting seven days before such meeting, shall be deemed sufficient notice thereof under the Constitution. Circumstances shall govern the notice given for the convening of the Commandery on the death and funeral of a Companion.

Every notice of a special meeting shall state by what authority and the business for which it is convened, and no other business than that named shall be transacted at such meeting.

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(6.) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

There shall be an Advisory Committee of not less than five and not more than seven members annually appointed at the May stated meeting of the Commandery, to hold office for one year, and until their successors are appointed, to confer and advise with Committees of Investigation, whenever thereunto requested, upon questions of hereditary right arising out of or affecting applications for membership in the Order.

(7.) BALLOTING FOR MEMBERS.

The report of the Committee of Investigation having been read, upon its adoption by the Commandery the candidate shall be balloted for forthwith.

At a ballot for members the Commander shall appoint two tellers, who shall receive the ballots and report the result to the Commander, who shall announce the same.

(8.) MEMBERS.

Members while residing, or doing business, or on army or navy duty, within fifty miles of the City Hall in the city of New York, shall be classified as resident members, and all others as non-resident members.

(9.) NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The Commander shall appoint and announce to the Commandery at the stated meeting in February of every year a Nominating Committee of nine Companions, whose duty it shall be to nominate a ticket for officers for election at the stated meeting to be held in May following. This Committee shall be selected from among the resident members of the Regular Army, Navy, and Volunteer forces, to be divided equally as nearly as possible among those three classes, and shall not include any member of the Board of Officers for the time being. This Committee shall select and nominate a ticket of the names of Companions proposed to fill the respective offices to be elected by ballot at the stated meeting to be held in May following, which ticket shall be by the Committee furnished to the Recorder within <sup>two</sup> ~~one~~ month after its appointment, and the Recorder shall distribute the same as the "Regular Ticket" to the Companions of the Commandery, together with the circular notice of the stated meeting in <sup>May</sup> ~~April~~ of every year, and shall print a sufficient number of said tickets for use at the election. But the preparation and distribution of such ticket shall not preclude any Companion from making any nomination for any office, nor from making any change in his vote, either by erasing any name or names, or by writing or pasting on his ballot the name or names of any Companion or Companions for whom he may desire to vote for any one or more of the offices. In determining the numbers of votes cast for any officer, only affirmative votes shall be counted. Blank votes shall not be counted.

The polls for the election of officers shall be held in a room other than the one in which the business meeting of the Commandery is held. They shall be opened at 6 P. M. and remain open until 7:30 P. M. of the same evening, at which hour they shall be closed and no more ballots received. Three tellers shall be appointed by the Commander ~~at the meeting in April~~ to receive and count the ballots, who shall be furnished with alphabetical lists of all Companions entitled to vote, and a check be made opposite the name of each Companion as his ballot is deposited in the ballot-box.

Immediately upon the closing of the polls the tellers shall proceed to count the ballots cast and make a return of the result to the Commander.

#### (10.) ARREARS.

Immediately after the reading and adoption of the minutes at the stated meeting in the month of May, the Commander shall read Section 1 of Article XVIII. of the Constitution, so that, if desired, arrears may be paid or remitted before the ballot for officers of the Commandery is taken.

#### (11.) REMOVAL OF OFFICERS.

When charges are preferred against an officer for malfeasance they shall be made in writing and be served upon the officer so charged at least twenty days before the date fixed for the hearing thereof, and no removal of said officer shall be made by the Commandery until he shall have had reasonable opportunities for his defense before a committee of five members.

#### (12.) TELLERS.

Motions shall in all cases be reduced to writing if desired by the Commander or a Companion.

On motions and resolution the vote may be *viva voce* or by division. A division by tellers shall be taken at the demand of fifteen members.

#### (13.) LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

The Commander shall annually, as soon after the stated meeting in October as practicable, appoint three Companions as a Committee to be known as the "Library Committee," who shall have charge of the library, archives and relics. They shall prepare and maintain a proper catalogue of the same, and shall expend, from time to time, in the purchase of books such sums as the Commandery, on the recommendation of the Board of Officers, may appropriate for that purpose. They shall select from among military papers read and deposited by resolution of the Commandery among its archives, such as in their opinion should be published, and on their publication being ordered, shall edit the same.

#### (14.) FUNDS.

1st. The admission fee to the Commandery shall be \$35.

2d. The annual dues shall be, for each resident member, \$10; and for each non-resident member, \$5; payable in advance, on or before the annual meeting of the Commandery, in the month of May, in each year. Resident Companions elected between January and May shall pay only one-half of the annual dues for the current year.

The sums of money deposited to the credit of the Commandery in various savings banks, or elsewhere, shall be known as the Permanent Fund. The sums of money received for admission fees and annual dues, and from all other sources, shall constitute a fund to be known as the General Fund. All current expenses of the fiscal year shall be chargeable to and defrayed from the General Fund, and of the surplus, if any, of the General Fund remaining at the end of the fiscal year, one-half thereof shall be transferred to the credit of the Permanent Fund, and the remaining one-half thereof shall be carried to the credit of the General Fund of the succeeding year.

The Treasurer may, for convenience, during the fiscal year, draw from the General Fund sums chargeable upon the Permanent Fund, but all such sums shall be chargeable upon and be duly debited against the Permanent Fund, and be so reported by the Treasurer in each of his quarterly reports.

In case of drafts made by the Treasurer in the course of the fiscal year upon the General Fund of sums chargeable to the Permanent Fund, their total at the end of the fiscal year shall be supplied to the General Fund by drawing it from the Permanent Fund, and a full account thereof shall be given to the Commandery by the Treasurer in his annual report.

#### (15.) WITHDRAWAL OF FUNDS.

The Permanent Fund, whether in savings banks or elsewhere deposited, shall not be withdrawn, or any part thereof, except by resolution of the Commandery, stating the amount and for what purpose, duly certified by the presiding officer and Recorder. The check or draft to be signed by the Treasurer and the Commander or Senior Vice Commander.

#### (16.) RELIEF.

All sums paid by the Treasurer, whether on the approval of the Board of Officers for "temporary assistance of the unfortunate," or by resolution of the Commandery for relief, shall be made chargeable to, and be drawn from the Permanent Fund. It shall be the duty of the Relief Committee to report all cases of temporary assistance at the next stated meeting of the Commandery, with their reasons for the same.

Resolutions for relief when ordered by the Commandery shall require a two-thirds vote for adoption.

Applications for relief shall be made in writing to the Recorder, stating the grounds on which the relief is asked, and the same shall be presented by



him to the Commandery at its next meeting, and be forthwith referred without debate, to the Relief Committee.

(17.) SECURITY OF TREASURER.

The Treasurer shall give a bond, conditioned for "the faithful performance of his duty" in the penal sum of \$5,000, with two sufficient sureties, to be approved by the Board of Officers.

(18.) STANDING COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTS.

The Council shall audit and adjust the Commandery's books of accounts every three months, and as often as done make a report of the same at the next stated meeting.

(19.) FINES.

A Companion introducing or discussing sectarian or partisan topics at a meeting of the Commandery shall immediately be called to order by the Commander, who, thereupon, shall refer the offense to the Board of Officers. If the offense be committed within the precincts of the Commandery other than at the meeting, the Board of Officers shall take cognizance of it.

The precincts of the Commandery shall be the place of its meeting and the place of its refection.

No fine, however, for this or other violation, or neglect of duty by a Companion, shall be imposed without opportunity first given to him of being heard in his defense.

(20.) MILITARY PAPERS.

Papers on military reminiscences relating to the War, after approval of the Board of Officers, may be read at the stated meetings of the Commandery, and on resolution of the Commandery shall be preserved among its archives.

(21.) HEADQUARTERS.

A suitable place shall be maintained at the expense of the Commandery, wherein shall be deposited its archives and library and whatever else of value or importance. It shall, at all reasonable times, be accessible to Companions and visitors introduced by them as the headquarters of the Commandery. It shall be under the care and its contents in the custody of the Recorder, subject, however, to the control of the Board of Officers.

(22.) APPLICATIONS FOR REINSTATEMENT TO MEMBERSHIP.

Every application for reinstatement to membership shall be made in writing and signed by the applicant. Upon such application, the Board of Officers shall act as a Committee of Investigation, and if satisfied that the



candidate is worthy, shall favorably report the name to the Commandery. If the report be unfavorable, the application cannot be withdrawn, but the candidate must be balloted for.

(23.) BY-LAWS.

These By-Laws shall not be repealed or amended, nor shall any new by-law be made, unless notice of the repeal, or amendment thereof, or of the new by-law proposed, shall have been given at the stated meeting previous to that at which it is moved, nor unless adopted by two-thirds of the members voting.

All Resolutions, Motions or Orders in conflict with these By-Laws are hereby repealed.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



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